



**SELWYN HOUSE SCHOOL**



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Selwyn House School is an independent, non-denominational, day school for 530 boys in Grades 1 to 11, located in Westmount, in the heart of Montreal, Quebec. It is chartered by the Province of Quebec as a non-profit institution and has been "Declared in the Public Interest". The School is owned by the Selwyn House Association, operated by a Board of Directors and administered by the Headmaster. The primary language of instruction is English. However, French is taught at every level.

### **HISTORY**

The School was founded in 1908 by Mr. Algernon Lucas, a graduate of Selwyn College, Cambridge, to educate boys to 13 years of age. Its first location was in downtown Montreal, on MacKay Street, and in 1930 it moved to more spacious quarters on Redpath Street. Upon the death, in 1945, of its fourth Headmaster, Mr. Geoffrey H. Wanstall, the ownership of the School was transferred to the Selwyn House Association, a newly-created group of Old Boys and interested parents. In 1960 the building housing Westmount High School was acquired and the School moved into these, its present quarters. The relocation not only provided expanded, first-rate facilities but it also enabled the School to offer instruction beyond the junior high school level, through to matriculation and university entrance. With the acquisition of a new building in 1985, the school increased its floor space by 50 per cent while remaining committed to maintaining present enrollment levels.



## THE AIM

Selwyn House seeks to prepare boys of good intelligence, who exhibit good citizenship, for the imaginative, reasonable and responsible exercise of their talents and faculties.

The School offers a strong academic orientation and the emphasis is on scholastic achievement and intellectual growth. As well, each student is encouraged to develop his other abilities through a comprehensive athletic and extra-curricular programmes. Each year 100% of its graduates enter post-secondary studies in Quebec CEGEP's and universities in Canada, United States, United Kingdom and Europe. Although students are prepared for and receive Quebec's Secondary V Certificate, it is the Selwyn House Diploma which attests to the graduate's successful completion of the required programme.

## FACILITIES

Two buildings house 30 classrooms, a gymnasium, an auditorium, two stages for theatrical productions, fully-equipped laboratories for Chemistry, Physics, Biology and Geography; a Library with audio-visual facilities; an Art Studio and a Music Room; a multi-purpose Conference Room for seminars, debates, meetings, etc.; and a first-aid room, offices, Masters' Common Rooms, etc. A photographic dark room is located in an adjacent property. The Geoffrey H. Wanstall Library contains 15,000 volumes and subscribes to thirty periodicals. A Computer Science Lab is located in the Library complex.





## **THE ACADEMIC PROGRAMME**

Selwyn House is divided into an Elementary School comprising Grades I to VII and a Secondary School, Grades VIII to XI.

### **The Elementary School**

The fundamentals of English, French, Mathematics, Social Studies and Science form the major part of the curriculum in the Elementary School. Physical Education, Art, Drama, Computer Science and Music are integral parts of the programme.

Each child in the Elementary School is assigned a homeroom teacher who handles most of the teaching of the academic subjects. French, Physical Education, Art, Music and Computer Science are taught by specialists.

Individual attention and a strong programme that follows up on each student's progress are our primary concerns. In order to achieve these goals, we strive to have a maximum of twenty students per class. The Elementary School is characterized by firm standards and a warm atmosphere.

Students are encouraged to take on the leadership of many activities within the School: tutoring, setting-up a club, organizing a carnival . . . The students' participation provides a learning experience and encourages the development of mutual respect and a sense of responsibility.

### **The Secondary School**

While the teaching of English, French, and Mathematics is basic to the curriculum, students are also offered Science, Geography, History, Latin, Careers, Computer Science, and Personal Development.

By Grade X the majority of subjects is optional in nature, enabling a boy to select areas of study that will prepare him for post secondary destinations while at the same time giving him an opportunity to take subjects that arouse his curiosity. Philosophy, Economics, Issues in the media, World Geography, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and North American Literature are just some of the options included in the Grade X and XI programme.

In addition each boy is required to choose an option in the arts programme and to select from a variety of physical education activities one that might interest him.

While the school is characterized by a strong academic orientation combined with an enthusiastic athletic involvement, opportunities for leadership and social training are provided by a student council, a prefect system, and entertainment committees. Each student is afforded the opportunity for individual help or consultation in resolving difficulties academic or otherwise.





## THE ATHLETIC PROGRAMME

The purpose of the programme is two-fold: to stimulate interest in, and a desire for physical fitness, and also to develop an on-going enthusiasm for athletic activity. All boys are required to participate in the programme unless certified medically unfit to do so. Each boy undertakes sports at least three times a week and may involve himself for as much as eight hours, depending on the option he selects.

The leisure and recreational aspect of the programme offers: football, soccer, badminton, squash, cross country running, hockey, basketball, wrestling, curling, rugby and tennis. The extra-mural programme provides an opportunity for team involvement in most of these sports, either in the highly competitive Greater Montreal Athletic Association or against independent schools in Quebec and Ontario.

The School has a well-equipped gymnasium and combatives room. Artificial ice rinks for hockey and curling, squash courts, tennis courts and playing fields are all within easy walking distance or short rides by one of the School's buses.









## THE EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAMME

The purpose of the extra-curricular programme is to promote an interest in constructive and creative activities for leisure time and to encourage an appreciation of the arts. Here the boy is given an opportunity to extend his school experience beyond the purely scholastic and athletic.

In the weekly timetable of every boy in Grades 7 - 11, two formal Arts periods are scheduled and frequently these meetings carry over into out-of-school hours. In grade 7 the student may choose to attend one of the following: Debating, Band, Drama or Art.

The Secondary School offers a choice of Animation, Astronomy, Art, Debating, Drama, Music, Photography, Speed Reading or Typing in Grades 8 and 9. In order to encourage an exposure to many different areas Grades 10 and 11 choose from Art, Computer Science, Digital Electronics, Debating, Drama, Music, Speed Reading and Typing.

Industrial tours are also arranged.

Annually the School hosts guest lecturers, distinguished speakers, and outside theatrical and musical organizations.



## THE STUDENTS AND STAFF

Selwyn House students come from a wide spectrum of family backgrounds, and the diversity of their economic conditions, religious affiliations and ethnic origins lends strength to the fabric of the enrolment. Half the boys come from Westmount, and the remainder travel daily from all parts of Greater Montreal, including the West Island, South Shore, T.M.R., etc.

The teacher-pupil ratio is just under 1 to 10. In addition, there are full-time Librarians, and Administration staff.



## CLASS SIZE, EXAMINATIONS AND REPORTS

Deliberately the class size is kept at a maximum of 22, and the average recitation section numbers 17. Every class has a Form Master whose responsibility is to make himself thoroughly familiar with the boy's overall performance, academic and otherwise. All are in close touch with the Directors of the Elementary or Secondary School and with the Headmaster. Parents are consulted as the need arises.

There is a formal schedule of tests and examinations; numerical marks are given, and complete descriptive reports are sent to parents four times a year. Special additional reports on boys encountering difficulty are also sent out from time to time.

Parents are invited and warmly encouraged to consult at any time with subject teachers, Form Masters, the Directors of the Elementary or Secondary School or the Headmaster. The University Counsellor advises senior boys on matters related to post-secondary studies and assists with the mechanics of applications.

## **SCHOOL ROUTINE**

The School day begins for everyone at 8:15 A.M., and finishes at different times according to the Grade level. Depending on the sports and extra curricular programmes, these hours may be extended on certain afternoons (Grades 6 - 11).

A uniform is required of all boys and basically this consists of a School blazer, grey trousers, a dress shirt and a School necktie. Full details may be found in the "Clothing Regulations".

## **SELWYN HOUSE SCHOOL RULES**

Students have a responsibility to seek information, work diligently and set realistic goals while conducting themselves in a thoughtful and self disciplined manner that shows a genuine concern for the school community.

## **ADMISSIONS**

Admission to Selwyn House is by selection. For entry into Grade 1, individual appointments are made for candidates to meet singly with members of the Elementary School staff. The brief test and interview take about one hour. For entry into other grades, Admission is based on the results of Entrance Examinations, a personal interview by members of the Admission Committee, and the recommendation of the candidate's previous school. Entrance Examinations are designed to measure a boy's aptitude rather than achievement.

Financial Aid is available upon application to the Headmaster. Limited funds are dispersed on the basis of academic achievement and proven financial need. Requests for Financial Aid are reviewed annually.

For further information, please contact the Director of Admissions.





*For further information,  
please write or telephone:*

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